THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the accident which occurred on 4th June, 1986, the pilot experienced control problems during a routine training flight. The aircraft, thereafter could not be controlled and the pilot ejected.

Three IAF aircraft crashed in Western Sector in the third week of June, 1986. In the first accident, which occurred on 17th June, 1986, the aircraft crashed during a low level training flight, while executing a hard turn to the right. The pilot was killed in the accident. In the second accident which occurred on the same day, the pilot was unable to climb or maintain height after take off. Consequently, he ejected and the aircraft crashed. In the third accident, which occurred on 18th June, 1986, the aircraft sustained a bird hit shortly after take off resulting in engine flame out. The pilot ejected safely.

Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into these four accidents, and their findings are awaited.

Radiation leakage from Atomic Power Plants

4. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of incidents of radiation leakage in the Atomic Power Plants in the country so far, plant-wise, stating the number of worker, if any, who have suffered physical damage as a result thereof and the extent of environmental radiation;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the potential hazards of nuclear power plants and the recent Chernobyl disaster in the USSR, many advanced European countries have banned the construction of nuclear power plants and many States in the US have banned the commissioning of the already constructed atomic power plants; and

(c) whether considering the fact that the potential hazards of radiation are invisible, irreversible and unquantifiable, Government have reassessed the whole question of power generation by the fission process; if so, what are the details thereof; stating how the atomic power plants in the country are considered be safer than other plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There has been no incident in which workers have suffered physical damage or were exposed to radiation beyond the limits recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

(b) Most advanced countries have, at the Government level, re-affirmed their commitment to nuclear power even after the Chernobyl accident. However, it is reported that in one or two countries, as a result of public demand some nuclear projects have been deferred.

(c) The health efforts of radiation exposures are not unique. The effects that can be attributed to low levels of radiation exposure are also caused by a large number of other environmental agents. Effects of radiation exposure to low level radiation are very small compared to risks of similar effects from other known and unknown environmental agents. In fact, studies on health effects of alternative forms of power generation have revealed nuclear energy to be a comparatively safe and clear method of producing power.

Impact of Radioactive Plume from Chernobyl on India

5. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a radioactive plume originating from the Chernobyl Power Plant in the Soviet Union hit the country sometime in the second week of May, 1986 and its impact was recorded at the Atomic Power Stations at Tarapur, Rawatbhata in Rajasthan and Kalpakkam in Madras till the third week of May, 1986; and